

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR
BARBARA J. TITUS FROM THE
U.S. MARINES

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself, Congresswoman CAPITO and the entire Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the 7th Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus at Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose of this event is to honor our nation's servicewomen and female veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

Today, we have the opportunity to recognize five outstanding female servicewomen, one selected from each branch of the military. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

From the U.S. Marine Corps, we will honor Sergeant Major Barbara J. Titus, who enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves on March 3, 1978, and graduated from the Women Recruit Training Command, Company "L" at Parris Island, South Carolina. She has distinguished herself through her commitment and dedication to the Marine Corps. Sergeant Titus reported on active duty to the Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron 90, Marine Air Traffic Support Group (MATSG) 90, Naval Air Station (NAS), in Millington, Tennessee. She successfully attended the Aviation Electronics and Air Traffic Control Maintenance Schools, where she dedicated her training to becoming an Air Traffic Control Navigational Aids Repairman.

Among other achievements, Sergeant Titus has distinguished herself by her commitment to enhancing her education and training. She graduated from Drill Instructor School at Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD), Parris Island, South Carolina, where she quickly excelled from Drill Instructor to Senior Drill Instructor and ultimately Chief Drill Instructor. She returned to Millington, Tennessee in August of 1991 as an instructor at the Air Traffic Control Maintenance School, where she clearly demonstrated her leadership skills.

Having served the U.S. Marine Corps in various capacities here in the U.S. as well as abroad in countries like Japan, Sergeant Major Barbara J. Titus continues to dedicate herself to the Marine Corps and to protecting our nation. She is an invaluable leader in the Marine Corps, and it is an honor for each member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the courage and commitment of Sergeant Titus and all women in the military.

IN SUPPORT OF THE SAFE FOR
AMERICA ACT H.R. 775

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 775, the Security and Fair-

ness Enhancement for America Act of 2003, or SAFE for America Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important piece of legislation, which eliminates the visa lottery program from the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Family connections play an overwhelming role in current immigration law. As a result of most immigrants coming from a few areas of the world, Congress established the visa lottery in the Immigration Act of 1990 to diversify the immigration pool. Approximately 50,000 foreign nationals per year are randomly selected and awarded visas to come and live permanently in the United States under this visa lottery program.

Immigrant visas are typically issued to individuals who already have some existing connection with a family member lawfully residing in the United States or with a U.S. employer. Millions of people apply for these visas through the lottery program, and the program requirements do nothing to ensure that the applicants have the skills they will need to participate in our modern economy. The recipients of these visas are selected based on luck, not by merit or existing ties with the U.S.

This visa program is also problematic because it is unfair to those immigrants who have patiently waited and complied with our immigration laws. Most family-sponsored immigrants currently wait years to obtain a visa, yet the visa lottery program allows 50,000 random immigrants to pass ahead of these family-sponsored immigrants each year with relatively no wait.

Finally, and what is perhaps most troubling are the numerous cases reported by the State Department that show that lottery winners often file fraudulent visa information. Because the lottery accepts visa applications from a variety of individuals and only requires credentials after selection, there is often a rush to find false documents once the winners are notified. False documentation is bad enough when applicants lie about education or work experience. With the amount of terrorist threats against our country, these immigration loopholes can create devastating consequences.

Mr. Speaker, in this atmosphere of ambiguity, it would be wise to closely examine the flow of legal immigration into the United States in order to implement more comprehensive screening and naturalization measures.

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 428

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced a Concurrent Resolution that calls on Congress to clarify our national security spending priorities and regain a sense of fiscal responsibility. Specifically, my resolution recommends that Congress not provide funds for fiscal year 2005 for the deployment of ground-based, strategic, mid-course, ballistic missile defense system components that have not met operational testing requirements and, instead, provide needed funding for programs designed to keep America's ports secure from terrorist attacks.

The Defense Authorization bill as reported by the House Armed Services Committee au-

thorizes increased funding for ballistic missile defense and the deployment of ground-based interceptors without additional testing. I think this is a mistake from both a budgeting and a national security standpoint.

Let me be clear that I am a strong supporter of missile defense. As a member of the Armed Services Committee from 1992-98, I urged increases in BMD R&D accounts. I support the Patriot Missile Defense System. I am a principal supporter of the Arrow Anti-Missile system, the first Member of Congress to have seen it deployed at Palmercham AFB in Israel, and a strong proponent of the Third Arrow battery.

However, I do not support rushing to deploy a new U.S. system that has neither received adequate testing, nor been proven effective.

In August of 2003, the General Accounting Office issued a report stating that only two out of the ten critical technologies needed for the successful implementation of a ground-based missile defense system, or GMD, have been proven reliable. That report also indicated the administration's intent to deploy ground-based interceptors before all the critical technology has matured.

Before we deploy such a system, we should be absolutely sure that it is effective and sustainable. The expected five-year cost of the ballistic missile defense system is \$53 billion. In this budget environment, the last thing we need is a \$53 billion weapons program that plays no substantial role in our protection.

The resolution I introduced yesterday would authorize funding for ballistic missile defense programs for fiscal year 2005 at fiscal year 2004 levels, and require the administration to determine that all technologies are operational before moving to deploy ground-based interceptors. My resolution also calls on Congress to bolster homeland security by agreeing that we should authorize at least \$500,000,000 for port security programs for fiscal year 2005.

From a national security standpoint, we have higher priorities than deploying an untested missile defense system. America's seaports remain vulnerable to terrorist attack and infiltration. Cargo containers are susceptible to being used to smuggle terrorists or dangerous materials into the United States, or as a delivery vehicle for a weapon of mass destruction.

The Intelligence Community has warned that the United States is more likely to be attacked with a weapon of mass destruction delivered by ship, truck, or airplane than by a ballistic missile.

I am not alone in my assessment of the GMD program and the importance of port security. In March of this year, 49 retired generals and admirals—including Ret. Adm. William J. Crowe—sent a letter to President Bush asking that he postpone operational deployment of an untested GMD system, and transfer the associated funds to securing our nation's ports and borders from terrorist attack.

I support strong, sensible and effective homeland security. Any strong national security strategy must include both effective ballistic missile defense and strong port security measures. I am also an advocate of fiscal responsibility. This resolution calls on Congress to take a step toward fiscal responsibility while providing much-needed funding for port security programs, and still allowing for the development of an effective ground-based missile defense system.

For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 428, and ask unanimous

consent to attach the letter I referred to to my remarks.

WAGING PEACE.ORG,
March 26, 2004.

President GEORGE W. BUSH,
*The White House, Pennsylvania Avenue, Wash-
ington, DC.*

49 GENERALS AND ADMIRALS CALL FOR
MISSILE DEFENSE POSTPONEMENT

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: In December 2002, you ordered the deployment of a ground-based strategic mid-course ballistic missile defense (GMD) capability, now scheduled to become operational before the end of September 2004. You explained that its purpose is to defend our nation against rogue states that may attack us with a single or a limited number of ballistic missiles armed with weapons of mass destruction.

To meet this deployment deadline, the Pentagon has waived the operational testing requirements that are essential to determining whether or not this highly complex system of systems is effective and suitable. The Defense Department's Director of Operational Test and Evaluation stated on March 11, 2004, that operational testing is not in the plan "for the foreseeable future." Moreover, the General Accounting Office pointed out in a recent report that only two of 10 critical technologies of the GMD system components have been verified as workable by adequate developmental testing.

Another important consideration is balancing the high costs of missile defense with funding allocated to other national security programs. Since President Reagan's strategic defense initiative speech in March 1983, a conservative estimate of about \$130 billion, not adjusted upward for inflation, has been spent on missile defense, much of it on GMD. Your Fiscal Year 2005 budget for missile defense is \$10.2 billion, with \$3.7 billion allocated to GMD. Some \$53 billion is programmed for missile defense over the next five years, with much more to follow. Deploying a highly complex weapons system prior to testing it adequately can increase costs significantly.

U.S. technology, already deployed, can pinpoint the source of a ballistic missile launch. It is, therefore, highly unlikely that any state would dare to attack the U.S. or allow a terrorist to do so from its territory with a missile armed with a weapon of mass destruction, thereby risking annihilation from a devastating U.S. retaliatory strike.

As you have said, Mr. President, our high-priority is to prevent terrorists from acquiring and employing weapons of mass destruction. We agree. We therefore recommend, as the militarily responsible course of action, that you postpone operational deployment of the expensive and untested GMD system and transfer the associated funding to accelerated programs to secure the multitude of facilities containing nuclear weapons and materials and to protect our ports and borders against terrorists who may attempt to smuggle weapons of mass destruction into the United States.

Signed:

Admiral William J. Crowe (USN, ret.), General Alfred G. Hansen (USAF, ret.), General Joseph P. Hoar (USMC, ret.).

Lt. General Henry E. Emerson (USA, ret.), Lt. General Robert G. Gard, Jr. (USA, ret.), Vice Admiral Carl T. Hanson (USN, ret.), Lt. General James F. Hollingsworth (USA, ret.), Lt. General Arlen D. Jameson (USAF, ret.), Lt. General Robert E. Kelley (USAF, ret.), Lt. General John A. Kjellstrom (USA, ret.), Lt. General Dennis P. McAuliffe (USA, ret.), Lt. General Charles P. Otstott (USA, ret.), Lt. General Thomas M. Rienzi (USA, ret.), Vice Admiral John J. Shanahan (USN, ret.), Lt. General Dewitt C. Smith, Jr. (USA, ret.),

Lt. General Horace G. Taylor (USA, ret.), Lt. General James M. Thompson (USA, ret.), Lt. General Alexander M. Weyand (USA, ret.).

Major General Robert H. Appleby (AUS, ret.), Major General James G. Boatner (USA, ret.), Major General Jack O. Bradshaw (USA, ret.), Major General Morris J. Brady (USA, ret.), Major General Williams F. Burns (USA, ret.), Rear Admiral William D. Center (USN, ret.), Major General Albert B. Crawford (USA, ret.), Major General Maurice O. Edmonds (USA, ret.), Rear Admiral Robert C. Elliott, (USN, ret.), Major General John C. Faith (USA, ret.), Rear Admiral Robert H. Gormley (USN, ret.), Major General Richard B. Griffiths (USA, ret.), Rear Admiral Charles D. Grojean (USN, ret.), Major General Raymond E. Haddock (USA, ret.), Major General Jack R. Holbein, Jr. (USAF, ret.), Major General Stanley H. Hyman (USA, ret.), Major General Wayne P. Jackson (USA, ret.), Major General Frederick H. Lawson (AUS, ret.), Major General Vincent P. Luchsinger, Jr. (USAF, ret.), Major General James J. LeCleir (AUS, ret.), Major General William F. Willoughby (USAF, ret.).

Brig. General George C. Cannon, Jr. (USAF, ret.), Brig. General John J. Costa (USA, ret.), Brig. General Alvin E. Cowan (USA, ret.), Brig. General Lee Denson (USAF, ret.), Brig. General Evelyn P. Foote (USA, ret.), Brig. General Leslie R. Forney, Jr. (USA, ret.), Brig. General John H. Grubbs (USA, ret.), Brig. General James E. Hastings (USA, ret.), Brig. General John H. Johns (USA, ret.), Brig. General Maurice D. Roush (USA, ret.).

VA HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, without our veterans, there would be no America. As we remember those who sacrificed their lives for our Nation, let us remember that daily we reap the benefits of the bravery of America's veterans.

However, despite these sacrifices, our veterans continue to fight against this Administration for the benefits that they were initially promised every day. At the same time, we have continuously seen the VA budget slashed, giving fewer and fewer veterans the ability to receive the much needed assistance they were once guaranteed.

At the very least, our veterans, the brave men and women who put the life of their country before their own, should have access to health care facilities that meet their needs. However, we are now seeing critical hospitals closed, and often times they are the only option that our veterans have, especially in rural areas such as my district in Southern West Virginia. The Beckley VAMC in my district was fortunately spared from closing, however, others were not so lucky, and if current trends continues, it will only be time until the real possibility of closing looms near again.

Instead of closing these much needed facilities and cutting benefits once promised to our veterans, we should be modernizing hospitals, expanding benefits currently offered to our service men and women, and continuing to ensure that we show these brave Americans our gratitude for their service every single day. Our Nation needs to move further in a direction that allows us to reward our veterans for

their sacrifices they have made, wherever and whenever they made it.

Our veterans and soldiers today remain foremost in the thoughts and minds of Americans, and along with our devoted attention given to those who wear America's uniform. If we continue to create more and more veterans everyday, especially through recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, then this government needs to be prepared to follow through on the promise that their government will be there to take care of them. Each life is invaluable; let's ensure that we demonstrate our support and appreciation for what our veterans have done for America.

HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT
MAJOR DEBRA L. STRICKLAND
FROM THE U.S. ARMY

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself, Congresswoman Capito and the entire Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the 7th Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus at Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose of this event is to honor our nation's servicewomen and female veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

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From the U.S. Army, we will honor Command Sergeant Major Debra L. Strickland, who first entered the Army in 1973 from Coral Gables, Florida. Command Sergeant Major Strickland has served the Army at a variety of duty stations and capacities. Among other accomplishments, she distinguished herself early in her career by becoming the first female reserve advisor for the Readiness Group in the Fort Sill, Oklahoma, readiness region and assumed responsibilities over a three state area. She also utilized her experience working at the USAREUR Headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany, and in the office of Leadership to effectively manage the USAREUR Sergeant Morales Program. CSM Strickland has also been a strong MACOM proponent for uniform regulation. One of her many achievements includes an assignment at the Pentagon from 1988-1989, where she was one of few enlisted proponent action officers for an army publication, AR 670-1, the Army Uniform Regulation.

CSM Strickland has successfully completed Sergeants Major Academy and the Command Sergeants Major course. She is Drill Sergeant qualified, a member of the USAREUR Sergeant Morales Club, and is completing a degree in management. She is also the recipient of The Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (First Oak Leaf), Meritorious Service Medal (6th Oak Leaf) and Humanitarian Service Medal.